

stance, you as physicians have come before us and you have told us that there have been inadequacies in your profession, you have told us there have been dangers to the people, to the patients because of these inadequacies, and because of this ignorance in the profession, and yet the profession has not done anything to my knowledge to try to correct this on a major base nor has it invited Government to help. We have initiated the action, and then in some instances some of these professional people come in here and criticize our chairman or other members of this committee or Government in general for having injected itself into a professional problem.

You see it creates the confusion and the difficulty that does not give real aid to solving the problem with the professional counsel and the professional partnership role that I would like to see.

Dr. GARB. I see your point, Senator. First of all, I do not think anybody could conceivably be justified in considering these hearings or any of the congressional activities relating to drugs as invasions of a professional prerogative.

To me this is an absolutely necessary thing which the Government must do to protect the health of the people. I think perhaps the area in which we may be seeming to disagree is not really disagreement.

You have used the term profession when I suspect you probably mean professional association. To me the medical profession consists of the doctors of medicine, whereas I think you are using the term to refer to the official professional association of those doctors, and I distinguish between the two. You are speaking, I think, of the AMA, are you not?

Senator HATFIELD. Well, I would not restrict my comments merely to the AMA, but I believe that where you have a professional society or a professional organization which has a large staff or at least has a staff to research problems and expresses the thinking of the individual doctors through composite action, that this can be used interchangeably, because I know that many physicians do expect their views to be expressed through their professional association.

Dr. GARB. Well, in this area it would be difficult, not impossible, but very difficult to determine what a consensus of opinion of the practicing physicians in the country would be. I don't think, for example, that I would have any right to say that I am speaking for anyone other than myself, and people whom I know agree with me.

I doubt very much if the average practicing physician has had the time or the opportunity to look into this problem to the extent that those of us who are professors have had, and in a democratically elected organization you have to go by what the majority are concerned with. So I don't feel that I have any right even to make guesses as to why the association or any other group of physicians do or do not do certain things. I think that they ought to explain that for themselves.

Senator HATFIELD. I don't want to press the point too far, but let me just say as a former Governor I recall many times when we had problems that confronted us at a State level that involved the medical profession, and we had every reason to expect and we did receive counsel from the medical profession acting through its own societies, and we gained their cooperation.

We had their active role participating in solving these problems, and I came to expect this because they performed, always performed